facilities in any hospital is a continuous on-going process, at present, no proposal is under consideration for expansion of Safdarjung Hospital.

Malnutrition and maternal mortality in India

1906. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO has expressed its dissatisfaction over the condition of health services in India; and

(b) if so, whether the problems regarding maternal mortality and malnutrition among the children are very critical in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir, the World Health Report 2005 released by the WHO ranks India amongst the 51 countries which have shown a slow decline in reducing infant mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio.

The National Population Policy-2000 and the National Health Policy-2002 have laid down goals for bringing down the infant mortality rate to less that 30 per 1,000 live births and maternal mortality ratio to less than 100 per 100,000 live births by the year 2010. Malnutrition is also a challenge occurring due to the factors like poverty, lack of nutritional awareness, unsafe drinking water, sanitation etc. The Government. has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission to tackle health problems in a holistic manner, while the Mission is applicable to the entire country, it has its spl. Focus on 18 States, which have poor health and demographic indicators.

Lack of equipment in hospital in Delhi

1907. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many of hospitals are having acute shortage of latest equipment in Delhi/New Delhi due to which several people have lost their lives;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of such cases in Safdarjung and

Dr. R.M.L. Hospital are due to non-availiability of proper and working machines especially in the cases of emergency patients;

(c) whether Government have taken any corrective measures to stop deaths in such cases in these hospitals; and

(d) what kind of latest equipments are being provided to these hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, all essential life saving equipments are available in working condition and no death has been reported due to lack of latest equipments. The procurement/upgradation and replacement of equipments by the Central Government hospitals is a continuous process and latest equipments are procured by the hospitals on the basis of requirement and availibility of funds.

Financial assistance for poor patients from Ministers's fund

†1908. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant provided from his discretionary quota for the admission of poor and needy patients in the hospitals for meeting out their medical expenses during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of patients financially assisted from the said grant during the period;

(c) whether the amount of grant was not utilized during the said period;

(d) if so, the reasons for not utilizing this allocation fully; and

(e) the number of patients still waiting to receive grant from this fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b):

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.